Writing a Research Paper and Publishing a Brochure

Purpose

Write and publish a research report on a topic determined by the teacher. Students will create a simple database and spreadsheet to manage the sources used to gather information for the research report and the brochure. Students will also plan and conduct multiple-step information searches using computer networks.

Materials

For the teachers: teacher developed rubrics for the word processing document and brochure document given by the student
For the students: access to word processing, publication, database/spreadsheet software, and to the Internet.

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Preparation

1. Determine topic for research paper and brochure.
2. Determine requirements for length of research paper to be written.
3. Determine requirements for number and type of resources used (i.e. magazines, Internet, newspapers, etc.).
4. Determine requirements for brochure (number of panels, topics for panels, requirements for each panel (i.e. pictures, bulleted lists, paragraphs, bibliography, etc.).
5. Create rubric to assess the research paper and the brochure. (http://www.doe.state.in.us/istep/2002/Data/pdf/Grades6-12WritingApp.pdf).

B. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Discuss requirements and expectations for the research paper and brochure, including topic and documenting sources used.
2. Discuss using information from a variety of sources and teach them how to use a consistent format for citations.
3. Model procedures for locating the information. For example, using the Student Research Center via INSPIRE.NET, demonstrate how to use the database to search for information on the topic.
4. Model how to gather and summarize information and discuss that the topic may need to be refined throughout the research process.
5. Demonstrate how to develop a simple database and/or spreadsheet in order to organize the sources used.

C. Writing a Research Paper and Preparing the Brochure

1. Allow students time to research the topic.

Technology Literacy Standards

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
1	X	X	X	X		X	X
2	X	X	X	X		X	X
3	X	X		X	X	X	X
4		X				X	
5						X	X
6		X		X		X	
7				X		X	
8				X		X	
9				X		X	
10				X		X	
11				X		X	
12						X	
13				X		X	
14						X	
15				X			
16				X			

X = This Technology Literacy Standard is addressed in this lesson.

☐ = This Technology Literacy Standard is not addressed in this lesson.

2. Allow students time to type the report on the topic.
3. Allow students time to prepare the brochure using word processing or publishing software.
4. Allow students time to print the report from the student created database of sources used.

D. Close the Activity
1. Students will turn in the word processed research paper.
2. Students will turn in a report generated through the database created to track sources used.
3. Students will turn in a brochure over the topic.

Classroom Assessment ─────────────────────

Using the teacher-developed rubric, assessment will occur as students submit their word processed document. Using the teacher-developed rubric, assessment will also occur as students submit the brochure.